

**IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION
PROGRAMMES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO LOWER UMFOLOZI DISTRICT**

BY

**JABULISIWE REJOICE DLAMINI (Nee
Mthembu)**

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REFERENCE TO LOWER UMFOLOZI DISTRICT**

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JABULISIWE REJOICE DLAMINI (Nee Mthembu)

**A Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Arts in fulfilment of requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts (Community work) in the Department of Social
Work at the University of Zululand**

SUPERVISOR : PROF. TAP GUMBI

CO-SUPERVISOR : MRS RJN NEKU

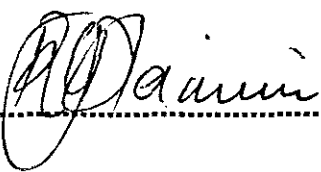
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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my husband Mlungisi, my son Siphamandla, my parents, my brothers and sisters for their moral support.

DECLARATION

I, Jabulisiwe Rejoice Dlamini, hereby declare that the “impact of poverty alleviation programme with special reference to Lower Umfolozi District” is my own work and that all the resources that have been quoted or referred to have been acknowledged by means of complete reference



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J R DLAMINI

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES

TITLE PAGE (i)

DEDICATION (ii)

DECLARATION (iii)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (iv)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (v)

CHAPTER I

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

ORIENTATION TO THE PROBLEM

1.1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.2	STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	2-3
1.3	MOTIVATION FOR STUDY	4-5
1.4	OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	6
1.5	HYPOTHESIS	6
1.6	THE VALUE OF THE RESEARCH	7
1.7	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	7
1.7.1	Research design	7
1.7.2	Population and Sample	8
1.7.3	Research Instrument	9
1.7.4	Procedure for data collection	9
1.7.5	Data Analysis and Interpretation	10
1.7.6	Dissemination of Information	11
1.8	DEFINITION OF TERMS	11-12
1.9	PRESENTATION OF CHAPTERS	13

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	INTRODUCTION	15
2.2	POVERTY	15
2.2.1	HISTORY OF POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA	15-16

2.2.2	CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY	17-23
◆	Unemployment	
◆	Poor	
◆	Illiteracy	
◆	Crime	
◆	HIV/AIDS	
2.2.3	SOCIAL POLICY AND POVERTY IN APARTHEID ERA	23-24
2.2.4	RURAL COMMUNITIES AND POVERTY	25
2.2.5	UNEMPLOYMENT INFLUENCE TO POVERTY	26
2.3	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	27
2.3.1	SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT	28-29
2.3.2	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	30
2.7	CONCLUSION	31
CHAPTER 3		
	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3.1	INTRODUCTION	32
3.2	RESEARCH DESIGN	32-33
3.3	SAMPLING PROCEDURE	33
3.4	RESEARCH INSTRUMENT	34-36
3.4.1	Interview	
3.4.2	Interview Schedule	
3.5	DATA ANALYSIS	37
3.6	RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY	38
3.7	LIMITATION OF THE STUDY	39
3.8	SUMMARY	39

CHAPTER 4

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO COMBAT POVERTY	40
4.1 INTRODUCTION	40
4.2 POVERTY ALLEVIATION APPROACHES	40-43
4.2.1 Empowerment	
4.2.2 Equity	
4.2.3 Capacity Building /Community Education	
4.2.4 Integrated Rural Development	
4.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT POLICIES	44
4.4 GLOBALISATION	45-46
4.5 CONCLUSION	47

CHAPTER 5

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA	48
5.1 INTRODUCTION	48
5.1.1 PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION	49
5.1.2 Sex	49
5.1.3 Highest Standard of Education	50
5.1.4 Number of dependants in Household	51
5.1.5 Period spent in community Projects	52-53
5.2 PROJECT ACTIVITY	54
5.2.1 TYPES OF ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN	54
5.2.2 PROVISION OF SKILLS TRAINING	55
5.2.3 QUANTITY OF PRODUCTION	55-56
5.2.4 AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT	57

5.2.5	MARKETING OF PRODUCT	57-58
5.2.6	MAJOR CONSUMER GROUP	58
5.3	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	59
5.3.1	Total funding received	59-60
5.3.2	Allocation used for project establishment	60
5.3.3	Total sales per month	61
5.3.4	Financial Administration	62
5.3.5	Salary Payments	63
5.4	CAPACITY BUILDING	64
5.4.1	Training Needs	64
5.4.2	Training skills acquired	65
5.4.3	Organisation of training	66
5.5	PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME	
5.5.1	Procedure of applying for funding	67
5.5.2	Supervision of projects	68
5.5.3	Funding of community project as the best method to alleviate poverty	69
5.5.4	Hindrances that prevented project from sustaining	70-71
5.5.5	Possibility of the programme in creating job opportunities	72
	CONCLUSION	73

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1	INTRODUCTION	74
6.2	RESTATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	74
6.3	COMMUNITY PROJECT AS THE BEST METHOD FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT	75-76
6.4	ACHIEVEMENT OF MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE	76-78
6.5	OBSTACLES AND HINDRANCES CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE PROGRAMME	78-81
6.6	RECOMMENDATIONS	81-82
	6.6.1 Need assessment	83-84
	6.6.2 Capacity Building	84-85
	6.6.3 Supervision and monitoring	85-86
6.7	ADMINISTRATION IN PROJECTS	86-87
	CONCLUSION	88
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	90-92

TABLES

TABLE 1.1
TABLE 1.2
TABLE 1.3
TABLE 1.4
TABLE 1.5

APPENDIX

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

KWAZULU NATAL - MAP

POVERTY RELIEF DISBURSEMENTS FOR LOWER UMFOLOZI DISTRICT

FLOW OF FUNDS - CHART

CHAPTER 1

ORIENTATION TO THE PROBLEM

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty is seen as the phenomenon that is typical of certain countries, areas and group of people who possess specific traits and labels that contribute to their condition of being poor. In South Africa poverty is primarily a feature of the previously disadvantaged population. Black South Africans who are the majority, are the most vulnerable group that is affected by poverty. The extent of poverty is significant in certain geographic areas like rural areas, informal settlement and in the farms. There are various factors that contributed to the legacy of poverty and these include colonialism, apartheid governance, racism, sexism and discrimination.

The present government of National Unity has committed itself to fighting or alleviating poverty through the formulation of social policies that are aimed at uplifting the socio-economic standards of all the citizens. The Reconstruction and Development Programme Policy document (RDP) underpinned by the growth, employment and redistribution strategy emphasizes the government's commitment to eradicate poverty in South Africa.

The social policy strategies are faced with the challenges and difficulties of implementing equity to address the imbalances of the past. One of the objectives of the RDP Policy is to attack poverty and deprivation and sets out a facilitating and enabling environment. The central objective is to improve the quality of life of all South Africans and in particular the most poor and marginalised section of our communities (RDP Document 1994).

The vision and objectives of all the policy documents that are aimed at improving the sociol economic status of the poor are well articulated. However there are concerns when it comes to the implementation stage, since there is little that has been achieved. In aspects such as economic empowerment and skills development, statistics still show a high percentage of illiteracy and unemployment.

The researcher is thus concerned with the prevailing poverty especially in the Lower Umfolozi District. There are programmes that focus on relieving poverty but it is debatable whether they are achieving their objectives or not .

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Over the ages people have felt responsible for each other. They were willing and interested to provide for those who were less privileged. However the harmonious way of living was affected by various major factors that were inevitable and as a result, individuals and families experienced a change in

their lifestyle.

These changes in lifestyle generally contributed to impoverishment. Poverty in this context relates to the inability of individuals and families to provide for their basic needs such as food, shelter, educational and other survival requirements.

The discovery of diamonds and gold in the 1870's in South Africa led to the migration of black labourers from rural areas to the mining centres. The resultant disintegration of family life brought about numerous sociol-economic problems and poverty (Potgieter, 1998:19). The traditional African system which was communalistic and promoted humaneness changed and became individualistic with a nuclear focus. The Lower Umfolozi Region which is the area of study show some characteristics of poverty. It is estimated that almost 65% of all South Africans live under the poverty datum line. (Poverty Relief Programme Procedure Manual, 2001)

About 72% of the members of the population who are poor live in rural areas and the poverty rate for rural areas is 71%.

Poverty is not confined to one race group but is concentrated among blacks. 61% African, 38% Coloureds, 5% Indians and 1% of Whites can be classified as poor (Poverty Relief Programme Procedure Manual 2001).

The Department of Social Development has declared war on poverty. In its efforts of addressing poverty the Department transformed the provision of the state Grant, as statistics revealed that very little had been achieved. Instead of promoting economic development it had created dependence. The Department then introduced the Poverty Alleviation Programme, as a paradigm shift from the previous system of helping the needy to become self-sufficient.

The purpose of this research is to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programme and other such programmes in achieving the objective of alleviating poverty.

1.3 MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

The researcher has observed that despite the fact that the Department of Social Development has embarked on promoting the economic empowerment of individuals, groups and families through the funding of community projects, *poverty is still prevalent in the Lower Umfolozi District.*

A total budget of two hundred and three million rands was allocated by the National Department of Social Welfare for Poverty Relief Programmes in the year 1998/1999. The funds were disbursed to Provinces and down to Regions and Districts. The Lower Umfolozi District received an allocation of R1,4 000 000 for its 21 projects. These were selected projects of

unemployed men and women with children. Their activities included blockmaking, sewing, poultry farming and gardening. The purpose of funding these projects was to help these groups to create job opportunities and to capacitate them through skills development so that they could be self-reliant and self-sufficient.

There are other poverty relief programmes rendered by other Departments as well, namely : The Department of Health has a Nutrition Programmes in primary schools; the Department of Agriculture is funding food gardening projects, and the Department of Public Works and Uthungulu (now known as Umhlathuzi).

Regional Authorities provide infrastructural resources such as markets and community centres. The researcher has observed that these service providers seemed not to render their services in a co-ordinated manner.

The programmes that are offered are unco-ordinated and compete with each other. Some of the targeted groups are therefore manipulating the programmes.

The policy of Poverty Relief Programme from the Department of Social Welfare sets criteria through which the projects can qualify for funding. Some of these standards are not user friendly to the majority of the targeted beneficiaries of the programme. These will be discussed in this study.

There is also a concern about the relationship between policy formulation interpretation and implementation and how these relate to the programmes that are in operation.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

- ◆ To establish whether community projects are the best method to be used for sociol-economic upliftment and poverty alleviation;
- ◆ To find out if the main objectives of the Department of Social Welfare about the programme are achieved; and
- ◆ To determine what obstacles and hindrances if any contribute to the failure of the programme.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

- ◆ The approach used by the Department of Social Welfare and Population Development to alleviate poverty has not reached the desired goal.

1.6 THE VALUE OF THE RESEARCH

The findings will assist policy formulators with the evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme and to review the existing approach to poverty alleviation. The study will outline the shortcomings of the programme which may have prevented it from achieving its main objective of alleviating poverty among targeted communities.

1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.7.1 Research Design

Research design involves strategies which seek to obtain answers to various questions. The researcher used the qualitative method.

Tutty, Rothery and Grinell (1965:5) describe the qualitative research as the study of people in their natural environment as they go about their daily lives.

Qualitative method tries to understand how people live, how they talk and behave, and what captivates and distresses them. The researcher is concerned with the sociol-economic status of the project beneficiaries and the rate of poverty in the area of study.

The researcher is involved directly in supervising the programme beneficiaries. They are observed regularly in the daily activities of their income generation projects. As mentioned earlier on, these projects include sewing, blockmaking, poultry and food gardening. The researcher wants to establish the perceptions of programme beneficiaries and the possibility of alleviating poverty through the activities that they are involved in. Qualitative research does not derive its hypothesis from the existing knowledge and theory (Tutty et al 1996:12). The researcher shall therefore gather information from each beneficiary as regards the impact of the programme to verify the hypothesis.

1.7.2 Population and Sample

Sampling methods are used in research when one is unable to investigate the total population about which the researcher needs to obtain information

(Collins in Mckendricks 1987:268).

The researcher will use purposive sampling procedure. Purposive sampling can only be used when there is sufficient knowledge related to the research problem to allow selection of typical persons for inclusion in the sample. The researcher has the list of all the income generation projects and is directly involved in supervising them. There

is adequate information about the focus area and about the programme as a whole.

Of the total list of 21 projects at the Lower Umfolozi District, three of them will be selected from three different rural areas. In each project four women will be selected to make a total number of twelve respondents (refer to chapter 3 for details).

1.7.3 Research Instrument

Research instrument refers to tools and strategies used in collecting data. The structured interview will be used to collect data. (See appendix for the interview schedule).

Tutty et al (1996:53) assume that the questions within a structured interview are sufficiently comprehensive to gather all or nearly all the information relevant to one's study topic. The structured interview schedule will enable the researcher to gather more information from the respondents about the significance or impact of poverty alleviation programme in the sociol-economic status of the beneficiaries.

1.7.4 Procedure for Data Collection

The most utilized data collection method in qualitative research studies

is the interview. Interviews provide the researcher with an opportunity to learn about that which you are unable to directly observe in a person's natural environment (Tutty et al 1996:52).

An interview schedule with twenty five questions will be constructed. The researcher will write a letter to each selected project requesting their participation in the interview.

The projects will be visited on site and the purpose of the interview will be laid out. The interviews will be conducted on projects sites or centres where a separate room will be used for interview to avoid influence from other respondents. A total number of twelve women who are the respondents will be interviewed.

1.7.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data analysis and interpretation answer the question of how the findings of the study shall be reported. The researcher is going to use a word processing and tables in analysing data. Tutty et al (1996:90) state that the purpose of data analysis in qualitative studies is to sift, sort and organise the mass of information acquired during data collection in such a way that the themes and interpretation address the original research problem.

The data will be categorized, coded and sorted to form the patterns that will be used to summarise the interpretation of data.

1.7.6 Dissemination of Information

The researcher will submit the findings to Provincial Poverty Relief Programme Task Team, Regional Task Team and to the Lower Umfolozi District office. The study will be made available at the library.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following concepts will be defined in the study as follows;

1.8.1 Poverty

For the purpose of this study poverty refers to the condition of being poor, lack of what is needed and a source of income or having not enough for all the necessities of life. Poverty may result from economic, social and political exclusion.

1.8.2 Community Project

Community projects in this context can be defined as those activities that are either initiated by the community or provided for aimed at developing the individuals economically, socially and in different self-help skills to become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

1.8.3 Community Development

Lombard (1992:118) defines community development as a process, a method, a programme, a movement aimed at enabling and encouraging communities to become involved with the necessary support from the private and government sectors in improving and managing their own living conditions in all areas of development.

1.8.4 Community

The term community, for the purpose of this study is defined as a group of people occupying the same geographic area sharing common norms, values, beliefs and culture. It is the group of people who also experience common social, economical and political standards.

1.9 PRESENTATION OF CHAPTERS

The structure of the document will be presented as follows;

CHAPTER 1

Introduction to the study - This chapter contains the layout of the whole study.

CHAPTER TWO

This chapter gives the theoretical exposition of literature review

CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

CHAPTER FOUR

This chapter contains findings, analysis and interpretation of data

CHAPTER FIVE

In this chapter there are conclusions and recommendations

CHAPTER SIX

Summary of findings and recommendations

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW ON POVERTY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The legacy of poverty has its roots originating from the apartheid era. The extent and prevalence of poverty have challenged the government to respond to the situation and take the initiative towards combatting it. Various strategies have been put in place as the means to respond to the thorny phenomenon of poverty. The paradigm shift from providing services to participation in social development emphasizes that the individuals should be directly involved in all the efforts aimed at their economic upliftment.

In this chapter the researcher will review literature on the key factors in relation to the history and characteristics of poverty, social and economic development.

2.2 HISTORY OF POVERTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa the emergence of industrialization in the 18th century forced people to rush to the mining towns which led to accelerated urbanisation and

related socio-economic problems, with poverty as one of its most outstanding consequences.

The second World War in the twentieth century aggravated the problem of poverty among the wide section of the population. Farms and property were destroyed and many blacks and whites died as prisoners of war camps (Potgieter 1998:20). These were the major natural factors that contributed to the increasing extent of poverty in South Africa.

The differentiation of people on the grounds of colour started in the 19th century long before apartheid policy was seen in 1948. The Land Act of 1913 deprived black people of the right to own land outside the reserves. Black workers were forced to maintain links with the rural subsistence economy through the system of temporary migrant labour (Patel, 1992:36).

The apartheid government came into power in 1948 and endorsed the apartheid laws and policies and moved towards a system of institutionalized racial discrimination (Potgieter 1998:21). The system of separated development brought about an unfairly distribution of resources and provision of employment opportunities. Blacks were exposed to the lower level of the economy and held down in unskilled and semiskilled occupations. This was an organised phenomenon of poverty which catalysed the already existing exposition of poverty among the black communities.

The displacement of blacks from the indigenous land through the Land Act (1969) resulted in poverty since they were forced to occupy the land. As a result blacks remained obliged by poverty circumstances which forced them to engage in cheap labour. They were exposed to exploitation and accepted poor paying jobs.

The RDP Document (1994:2) confirms that the history of South Africa has been a bitter one, dominated by colonialism , racism, apartheid, sexism, and repressive labour policies. The result was that poverty and degradation exist side by side with modern cities and a developed mining, industrial and commercial infrastructure. Income distribution was racially distorted, and ranks as one of the most unequal in the world. Moreover, lavish wealth and abject poverty characterized our society.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

There are major factors that are considered and play an important role in describing the extent of poverty in every country. These are regarded as key informants of defining underdevelopment and poverty to the community.

► Unemployment

Unemployment is a serious problem in the context of South Africa.

This factor generates all the other factors that constitute poverty to

individuals, groups and communities.

The Social Welfare Annual statistical report 1996/1997 indicates that unemployment in South Africa is very high and is of a structural nature mainly due to mis allocation of resources in the apartheid economy. The unemployment rate is estimated at 30% but goes up to 55% for the poor South Africans. Even though job creation is a priority in South Africa, the rate at which jobs can be generated is limited by an overall economic consideration, shortage of skilled workers and high unemployment among the unskilled. This is where social development in welfare has to play a major role combined with the provision of social security as a safety net. The government is currently working on the establishment of the policy and programme of providing the unemployment grant to the unemployed South Africans.

Women, the disabled and the youth are seen as the major groups at risk of unemployment with the majority of black men employed in *unskilled jobs*. The National Man Power Commission was of the opinion that unemployment could increase to 44% of the total labour force by the year 2000. (Schrire, 1998:66).

The rural unemployed people usually move to urban areas out of desperation and are then faced with a far worse situation of violence and crime.

► **Poverty**

The state of being poor is another characteristic of poverty. Poorness can result from different causal factors. To define poverty one needs to be accurate because it does not call for the whole society to resemble poorness. The poor individuals may be within the rich members of society. Poorness should be defined in terms of actual *living conditions so that the subjective element can be eliminated* entirely.

Banfield in Moore (1982:53) distinguishes four degrees of poverty as follows:-

Destitution: this refers to the lack of income sufficient to ensure physical survival and to prevent sufferings from hunger and exposure to remediable or preventable illness.

Want: refers to lack of income sufficient to support essential welfare.

Hardship: refers to lack of income sufficient to prevent acute, persistent discomfort or inconvenience.

Relative: which is the lack of income sufficient to prevent one from feeling poor in comparison to others.

The majority of the black population in rural areas and in informal settlements are the vulnerable groups of the abovementioned degrees of poverty. They live in severe destitution where in other cases there is no income at all. Some depend on state grants for living which makes it difficult to cope and keep the basic needs demands. The state of being poor to these individuals is rooted from the previous inequality and deprivation, though the present government has still a long way ahead to ensure the appropriate distribution of resources.

► **Illiteracy**

Education helps individuals fulfill and apply their abilities and talents. It increases productivity, improves health and nutrition, promotes self-reliance and confidence and lastly reduces family size.

Illiteracy is much higher in the rural areas of South Africa and plays an important role in the poverty and low level of entrepreneurship.

According to the Green Paper on population Policy (1995), as quoted by Potgieter (1998:68) an estimated 50% of the rural population are

illiterate, compared to 38% in urban areas. During the system of separate development era, blacks were not exposed to the education that was going to help them to be economically balanced. They were not trained in the highly skilled jobs that could help them with entrepreneurship and be self-employed. In rural areas there were very few schools without adequate facilities and large group of unqualified teachers. To deal with those imbalances of the past the government formulated the skills Development Policy. Twelve private organisations are currently involved in literacy programmes, such Operation Upgrade and Read Programme.

► **Crime Factor**

The rate of crime in any society is measured against the level of poverty and state of development. South Africa has an escalating level of crime perpetuated by various social problems. It is a fact that crime hit the less privileged communities mostly. Moore and Moore (1982:195) confirm that lower-class people and people living in lower-class areas show higher official crime rates. Their finding came into final aspect of relationship between social structure and crime is based on the finding that, if people are concentrated in slums instead of being scattered through a city, there will be more crime. Residential segregation, wide gaps in income, unemployment, drugs and alcohol are seen as contributing factors to crime.

► **HIV / Aids Epidemic**

The HIV/Aids disease kills many people in South Africa. The victims leave behind thousand of orphans. The country has lost skilled and professional people and this is affecting the economic growth.

In South Africa there are at least 4,2 million people infected with Aids. South Africa has one of the most severe HIV/Aids epidemics in the world, with a rapid spreading virus and the large population is at risk. KwaZulu Natal has the highest rate of 37%(Sowetan , May 2000). The government has responded to the epidemic with a comprehensive national action plan calling for multi sectoral approach to combatting the epidemic.

Former President Mandela raised his concerns during the VIII International Aids conference to the effect that business has suffered, or will suffer losses of personal, productivity and profits and that economic growth is being undermined and scarce resources have been diverted to deal with the consequences of the pandemic. Many families have lost the breadwinners due to Aids. It is estimated that there are 360 000 children who are orphans because the parents died of aids (Sowetan May 2001). The epidemic has stricken the poor families and forced them to spend their hardly earned money in getting treatment for their sick relatives. The state President viewed that the

HIV/Aids epidemic is associated with poverty.

The poor communities are more vulnerable to the epidemic due to migration, prostitution (for income purpose) ignorance (due to illiteracy) to precautions. They find it difficult to provide proper care to the affected family members because they do not have adequate health care and a balanced diet.

2.2.3 Social Policy and Poverty in Apartheid Era

Unequal and inappropriate government expenditure contributed greatly to poverty experienced by the majority of black South Africans. An example of the consequences of apartheid expenditure and unequal distribution of resources is found in South Africa's relative poor- socio economic performance.

The apartheid social policies separated the South African society into a first world and a third world. Whites were the most privileged group. This is supported by the RDP document (1994:2) that segregation in education, health, welfare and employment left deep scars of inequality and economic inefficiency. Our income distribution was racially distorted and ranks as one of the most unequal in the world, lavish wealth and abject poverty characterised our society.

During the apartheid period the laws and social policies were racially

discriminating. These social policies ensured that the minority group obtained better jobs in the upper level of the economy while blacks in their majority were held down in unskilled and semiskilled occupations.

The Land Act of 1913, Group Areas Act No.36 of 1966, separate Amenities Act, Force Removals from specific areas contributed to severe family breakdown and the impoverishment of African people in rural areas. (Ramphele & Wilson 1989:216). The homeland and separate development policies restricted free movement and association on the one hand, while the need for economic growth encouraged greater urbanisation. This was dealt with through a system of discriminatory pass laws, limited housing construction for blacks in urban areas in particular and the bulldozing of informal settlements.

These discriminating social policies and laws resulted in the growing effect of economic sanctions and an economic recession. The depth of poverty in South Africa was catalysed by these apartheid social policies whose roots have influenced the present efforts of alleviating poverty.

2.2.4 Rural Communities and Poverty

The rural poverty has its roots also from the pre-apartheid and apartheid era. The Land Act of 1913 deprived black people of the right to own land outside the reserves, workers were forced to maintain links with the rural substance economy through the system of temporary migrant labour (Patel 1992:36). The forced removals landed the majority of blacks in deserts and undeveloped rural areas.

The statistics show that 56% of the population of KwaZulu Natal lives in rural areas, 55% of rural dwellers are women and 76% of the poor in KwaZulu Natal live in rural areas. (Integrated Rural Development Policy 1997). There are no employment opportunities in the rural areas as they are very remote from the modern economic development. Most of them are farm workers and their monthly salaries range from R100-R500 per month.

The household structures still practice the agricultural production. However they do not have the modern agricultural technology and adequate equipment such as tractors and irrigation system. Their product is not in marketable standard. They plough the small scales food gardens for their households food supplement.

Pensioners and other state grants such as disability grants and child support grants are regarded as the reliable source of income.

Addington (1984:13) found out that 46% of the households in rural areas of Kwazulu Natal depend on the state grants especially the Old age pension.

2.2.5 Unemployment Influence to Poverty

The 1996 census showed an unemployment rate of 34%. The census report found that of those who hold full time employment are 10,7% and earn R4 500-00 or more while 25% earn R500 or less. In South Africa there is no protection against unemployment and there is little or no social assistance.

Most of the social problems like malnutrition, violence, abuse and neglect, crime, poor housing and health care are attributed to lack of employment opportunities. The majority of the black population are involuntarily unemployed because they lack specialised and specific skills for available jobs or employment.

The youth form the high percentage of the unemployed. Political riots and violence resulted to many school dropouts as a result they ended in streets and unemployed.

Since 1994 more than 600 000 jobs have been lost, and only 5% of the more than 360 000 people who join the labour market every year find employment (Sowetan 31 May 2000). On the 30th October 1998 at the Presidential job summit the three major trade unions federations called on their members to make a financial contribution of a one day's wage in order to help create jobs and to minimize unemployment. The total amount of sixty million rand was collected. This trust targeted certain groups and areas to fund its job creation programmes. The rural poor and programmes with 50% of women were prioritized. These were some of the strategies that were aimed at minimizing unemployment as the country continues to battle against unemployment.

Unemployment is still hitting many rural house holds and they find it difficult to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and adequate shelter. They find it difficult even to pay for the schools fees or to further their children's education in tertiary institutions.

2.3 TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development is an aged term that was in operation even during the apartheid era in South Africa. The difference lies in the type of developmental programmes that were rendered in the past and those that are rendered by the present government.

The Social development approaches of the present democratic government are characterized by different policy approaches such as equity, antipoverty, Efficiency, Empowerment and Welfare. The approach is aiming at the eradication of poverty in the affected communities. There are various economic policies and economic growth programmes that are in place and they are discussed below.

2.3.1 Social Policy and Social Development

The government policy makers embarked on developing strategies of how best poverty and inequalities can be tackled. When the first democratic government came into office, their first duty was to review all the existing acts, social policies and development programmes. This was followed by an extensive exercise of formulating the non discriminatory acts and policies. Potgieter (1998:23) confirms this by saying that soon after the unbanning of political organisations, a National Peace Accord was signed while all the remaining laws such as *Group Areas Act*, *Land Act* *Separation amenities Act* and *Population Registration Act* were removed from the statutory book.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme Policy document was introduced. It comprises of five major policy programmes which when linked together make up the political and economic philosophy that underlies the whole document. These policy programmes include

building the economy, meeting basic needs, developing human resources and democratising the state and society.

Basically the programme aims at improving the socio-economic status of all the communities. It is also addressing the imbalances of the past in the distribution of resources. There are various social policies that are aimed at addressing poverty. The white paper for Social Welfare (1996) focuses in community development strategies that will address basic material, physical and psycho social needs.

The other new developmental approach that has been introduced by the State President is the Unity in Action for change. This approach includes rural development strategy, targeting the poorest of the poor. The central aim is to conduct a sustained campaign against rural and urban poverty, and investment in the economic and social infrastructure, human resource development and poverty alleviation.

Poverty touches the core of human dignity, with the basic needs unmet, the person is reduced to a state of non-being. A basic need approach represents a broad outlook on development which focuses on combatting poverty and raising the productivity of the poorest sections of the population.

2.3.2 Economic Development Policies

For every country to survive and combat poverty, it should start by strengthening its economic growth policies and beat inflation rate.

Most of the African countries including South Africa depend on foreign investors, such that the economic policies are formulated in a way that *attract the investors*.

The State President's key address at the opening of the National Assembly in February 2001 started with the Economic Plans. The President stated that the objective of the country is to achieve and move the economy to a high growth path, increasing its competitiveness and efficiency, raising employment levels, reducing poverty and persistent inequalities.

2.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter focussed on the historical review of poverty. It looked at the extent of poverty during the colonial era and apartheid years up to the present era.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Bailey (1987:33) defines methodology as the philosophy of the research process.

In this chapter the researcher will discuss the research design, sampling procedure, research instrument, data analyses, reliability and validity, and imitation of the study.

The purpose of this chapter is to give the broad picture of how the researcher has done the actual field research.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design used in this study is qualitative method.

Qualitative research design is described by Tutty (1996:4) as the study of *people in their natural environments as they go about their daily lives*, it strives to understand the meaning and behaviours have for them.

The researcher is concerned with the poor socio-economic status of the community under the area of study. The community is observed regularly as they are the clientele of the Lower Umfolozi district.

This method was seen relevant for the study. Grinell (1992:188) sees it as a method employed most often to describe social reality from the points of view of participants with the system studied.

The researcher co-ordinates the community projects. The participants are observed in their daily activities on their sites or centres.

3.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The women who are involved in community projects from the three rural areas that is Mambuka, KwaMthethwa and Matshana were asked to participate in the study. The participants were visited in their project centres or sites.

Mckendrick (1987:268) mentions that sampling methods are used in research when one is unable to investigate the total population about which the researcher needs to obtain information.

In the total number of twenty one (21) community projects at the Lower Umfolozi District, three projects were selected, that is, KwaMthethwa project, Siphinhlanhla gardening project and Zizamele sewing project. The total number of twelve women who are referred to as participants were drawn and, it was a total number of four participants from each selected project.

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The researcher used a purposive sampling procedure. Grinnell (1992:252) explains that we can use purposive sampling when we have sufficient knowledge related to the research problem to allow selection of “typical” persons for inclusion in the sample. This is also supported by Mark (1992:113) when he says that in the purposive sampling study participants are hand picked by the researcher to serve the purpose of the particular study.

The researcher’s concern is the impact of poverty alleviation programme to its beneficiaries. By using purposive sampling, the researcher has some purpose other than making accurate statements about the distribution of certain variables in a population. The purpose was to find the quality of the poverty alleviation programme as per our research design.

3.4 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

According to Bailey (1987:32) method means the research technique or tool used to gather data. The structured interview schedule was used to collect data in the study.

The study focuses on the impact of poverty alleviation programme implemented by the Department of Social Welfare. Tutty et al (1996:51) say of all the methods used to collect data, the important thing to remember is that the purpose of your study will determine which type(s) of data to gather. The interview was used to assess the impact of the programme on the participants.

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3.4.1 Interview

The interview was used to collect data. Grinell (1981:267) says the advantages of interviewing as a data collection method are primarily related to naturalistic and spontaneity, flexibility and control of the environment.

The other reasons that made interviewing the best method of collecting data in the study are that, interviews permit far more flexibility and the researcher can use probing questions to give responses greater depth. It also permits participants who lack reading or language skills to participate. The interviewer is there to see that each item is answered and can interpret or reword the item if necessary without distorting it. The researcher will be advantaged by using interview in the study since the majority of participants are illiterate, they cannot read and write. There were limitations and inaccuracy in answering the questions because the participants were free to give answers without writing them down.

3.4.2 Interview Schedule

The researcher prepared the interview schedule. Grinell (1987:273) defines the interview schedule as a written instrument that sets out the overall plan for the interview and determines the structure, sequence and content of the specific items to be asked.

The structured interview was relevant in the study as it also prescribes exactly what items to be asked, the sequence and specific wording. Both open and closed ended questions were used. All the participants from the three different projects were asked using one or the same set of questions. The closed ended questions were used where the researcher was expecting a narrative discussion, for example, section one of personal background information.

These questions are less sensitive. Bailey (1987:188) supports this by saying such questions ask for facts rather than feelings, beliefs or opinions. In the open ended questions the participants were given a space for explanation. They were asked to expatiate in their answers, by so doing they were all allowed to give out their perceptions and opinions. For example the question like, Do you think funding of community project is the best method to alleviate poverty?.

The participants were interviewed in private rooms in their centres using face to face interview. The purpose was to avoid influences and interference by other participants. The letters to the community project committees were written requesting their participation in the study. During the interview, the purpose of the study was addressed.

The interview schedule comprises of twenty five questions. The questions were intended to assess the sustainability of the programme and its impact in alleviating poverty.

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

The central purpose of data analysis in qualitative studies is to sift, sort and organize the mass of information acquired during data collection so that interpretation addresses the original research problem (Tutty et al 1996:90). Data analysis answer the question of how the findings of the study shall be prepared. The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of poverty alleviation programme focussing in rural areas of Lower Umfolozi District.

The data was analysed using the regular word-processing program. This method makes the task of transcribing large amount of data much simpler. This method is suitable and got a support from Tutty et al (1992:92), confirming that the qualitative research process usually results in masses of data.

The data was coded using constant comparison method. This means the units of data with the same characteristics and those with different characteristics were categorised respectively.

The table form analysis was used in the section that contains personal background information.

3.6 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Validity is defined by Grinell (1982:111) as the degree to which a measuring instrument is measuring what it is supposed to measure, the reliability as the degree of accuracy, or precession, the instrument possesses.

The researcher needs to be careful and know exactly what is intended to be measured. In the study the researcher used the interview schedule which comprises of twenty five (25) questions. Questions were intended to assess the sustainability of community projects. These questions were developed specifically for this study to obtain the impact of poverty alleviation, the difference it has made in the socio-economic standard of the participants.

The actual validity that the researcher tends to measure is the impact of the programme. To enure the reliability of the instrument, all the questions were based on the stability and effectiveness of the poverty programme. As a pre-

test method of the reliability, the researcher used the interview schedule on the group of three women who belong to community projects that were not elected to participate in the study.

3.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Fischer as quoted by Grinell (1987:44) states that potential limitations are often numerous in even the most carefully planned research study.

The researcher focussed on three rural areas, that is, KwaMthethwa, Ntambanana and Matshana. All these areas fall under the Lower Umfolozi District. The poverty alleviation programme was intended for all the nine rural areas of the District, but due to extensive geographical area, the study concentrated in only three areas. The findings will be generated from the Lower Umfolozi District only, but they can form the basis for other research studies.

3.8 SUMMARY

This chapter gave an overview of the method the researcher used to conduct the study which includes the research design, sampling procedure, research instrument, data analysis, reliability and validity and limitations of the study.

CHAPTER 4

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES TO COMBAT POVERTY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

“Fighting Poverty”, was the vision of the apartheid government and is still a vision of the present democratic government. The difference lies in the approaches and methods used to tackle the subject.

The Democratic Government has considered various models and approaches in the combatting of poverty` in South Africa. The government's vision as stated in RDP policy framework (1994:15) is, attacking poverty and deprivation as the first priority of the democratic government, the RDP document sets out a facilitating and enabling environment to this end.

4.2 POVERTY ALLEVIATION APPROACHES

4.2.1 EMPOWERMENT

This approach is an approach that was adopted by many government departments to be used in the social and community development model. Potgieter (1998:216) defines empowerment as a process of

increasing personal, interpersonal and collective power which allows individuals families, groups and communities to maximise their quality of life.

Since all the government departments have the allocation funds for poverty alleviation it therefore lies with each department to strategize the methods to be used to act towards the government's vision.

Empowerment process requires resources and the ability to utilise these effectively. The empowerment approach sees communities as competent and as having the capacity to act in their own interest, given opportunities and access to resources. The Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Department of Public Works and of Health have engaged themselves in the empowerment of poverty stricken communities through the funding of self-help projects. These projects are aimed at generating income to help these communities to be self sufficient and self-reliant.

4.2.2 EQUITY APPROACH

Equity emphasizes that all members of society should have equal opportunities to realise their potential, with the implication that they should also have access to resources which will allow them to grow and change.

The government reviewed the distribution of resources to all communities and thereafter designed programmes that are aimed at bringing equilibrium. The 1996 census proved that 60% of the population is defined as poor, the majority being black South Africans.

To ensure equity the government financing policy from the Department of Welfare notice 463 of 1999 aims to rationalize welfare funding to target beneficiaries and distribute benefits equitably, to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively, and thereby correct injustices and imbalances brought about by the present skewed allocation of resources.

The estimation of 90% of poverty alleviation funds were allocated to the poor rural communities that were previously disadvantaged in the allocation of resources.

4.2.3 CAPACITY BUILDING /COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The white paper for Social Welfare (1997:18) in its war against poverty states that poverty is often accompanied by low level of literacy and a lack of capacity to access economic and social resources. The Department of Welfare developmental programmes therefore will build

the capacity , facilitate access to resource systems through creative strategies, and promote self-sufficiency and independence.

The government emphasizes the paradigm shift from planning for the community , to participation and enabling the community to be actors in their development. The communities are directly involved in their own economic development through the establishment of projects and entrepreneurship activities. The government is committed to funding all the programmes that are designed and accredited for human resource development.

4.2.4 INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Potgieter (1998:190) supports an integrated intervention model, the *model assumes that the roots of human concerns and problems* originate from the dynamic interplay between the larger environmental context and the smaller system and that they can be resolved only by collective action.

The integrated Rural Development strategy is a new approach used to join forces in promoting effective and sustainable development. It seeks to integrate government departments interventions at a community level whilst taking into consideration specific development challenges in specific communities in identified poverty points.

The integration of social services was long overdue to take its recognition and importance. Through all the formulated programmes by either National and Provincial government, the sole purpose is to enhance the well being of the individuals, prioritising the vulnerable and poverty stricken ones.

Co-ordination of services prevents and eliminate duplication of services. It promotes efficiency and effective service delivery.

4.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT POLICIES

The economic empowerment policies that the government has are Growth Employment and Redistribution Strategy (Gear), Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), Privatisation and Skills Development Policy and Integrated Rural Development policy. All these policies are basically aimed at improving the economic standard of the country to be able to meet the basic needs of people such as jobs, housing, clean and healthy environment, nutrition health care and social welfare.

Many Government departments have therefore provided in their budgets poverty alleviation programmes. Funds are made available to various community projects that have the objective of generating income. These projects involve the unemployed to help them to be self-sufficient.

The private sectors are also taking part and joining hands in these strategies of poverty alleviation. Programmes like community builders and Lottery funds support economic empowerment of needy families.

4.4 GLOBALIZATION

South Africa has become the member of the world organisations such as the United Nations (UN), SADC, Common Wealth, World Trade Organisation, OAU and Group 7) of the developing countries. The country has its representatives in all the world summits and forums where the global strategies towards economic upliftment and sustainability are discussed.

Globalization has helped South Africa to adopt new developmental approaches that are used by the developed countries with the purpose of improving its economic forces. Studies have shown that developing countries still need the external financial resources to achieve an economic growth rate sufficient to address poverty and underdevelopment.

In the key note address in New York, United Nation, Millennium Summit, South African President mentioned the battle of dealing with major problems

like fighting poverty, promote sustainable economic growth, and fight against HIV/Aids.

CONCLUSION

In this chapter the researcher discussed the role of the South African Government in fighting poverty in all the communities. The chapter explored the Government economic policies, the models and approaches used to promote economic development.

CHAPTER 5

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSES OF DATA

5.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher analyzes and interprets the data collected on the impact of poverty alleviation programme with special reference to the Lower Umfolozi District.

Tutty et al (1996:90) state that the central purpose of analyses in qualitative studies is to sift, sort and organize the masses of information acquired during collection in such a way that it addresses the original research problem.

The data is analysed using word processing programme and tables. The data was obtained through the interview schedule.

It is important to mention that the researcher had divided the interview schedule into five themes as follows:

- The present socio-economic status of the household members.

- The specific activities that the respondents are engaged in
- The assessing of participants= understanding of financial management.
- The existing or acquired knowledge and skills as an empowerment of respondents for the planned change.
- Explore the views of respondents on poverty alleviation programme.

5.1.1 PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The personal background information includes gender, the highest standard passed at school, number of dependants in the household, *the source of income and the period of service in the project.*

5.1.2. SEX

The sex distribution revealed that the majority of 90% of respondents were females who are engaged in community projects, only 10% of the respondents were males. It is common that women spend most of their time at home doing the domestic duties while their husbands are at places of employment. In their upbringing women were motivated to do craft work and land cultivation in the rural area. Potgieter (1996 :198) confirms that the majority of the poor are women who live in rural

areas and are not in the position to obtain work. All the respondents were unemployed and characterized by poverty.

5.1.3. HIGHEST STANDARD OF EDUCATION

Distribution of participants according to their level of education.

RATING	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
GR 1 - Gr.7	7	50%
GR8 - Gr. 12	1	17%
Tertiary	-	0%
NONE	4	33%
TOTAL	12	100%

TABLE 1.1

Table 1.1 revealed that the majority of 50% of the respondents obtained lower level of education, 33% of the respondents had never been to school, 17% obtained secondary level of education. None of the respondents had reached tertiary level.

The importance of education is not emphasized especially to girls and women. Women are expected to carry out their gender roles of being wives, bearing children and practise the household functions like cooking and cleaning the house. The annual statistical report for social welfare 1996/1997 revealed that 32% of the population in KwaZulu-Natal province is illiterate, the majority being found in the rural

areas of the province. This is further supported by Potgieter (1998:68) in that illiteracy is much higher in the rural areas of South Africa and play an important role in the poverty and low level of entrepreneurship.

Lienberg and Stewart (1997:171) believe that successful modern economies and societies require citizens with a strong foundation of general education, the desire and ability to continue learning, to adapt and to develop new knowledge, skills and technologies.

5.1.4. NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS IN HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO TOTAL NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1 - 5	1	8
5 - 10	9	75%
10 - Above	2	17%
TOTAL	12	100%

TABLE 1.1

The distribution of dependents of the respondents per household shows that 75% of the respondents have more than five dependants. 17% have more than ten dependents and only 8% of the respondents have less than five dependants. The researcher learned that the majority of the respondents who have dependants ranging between 9 and 10 are those who had never been to school and those who obtained lower level of education. These respondents, regarded themselves as having played and proved their vital role of womanhood. They feel they have pleased their husbands and the in-laws by extending the families.

The 1996 Census found that KwaZulu-Natal Province has the highest population of 20,3% with 56,5% being the rural population. The researcher noticed that the destitute and poverty stricken families have high numbers of children who are dependant on their parents for a living. This is supported by De Lange (9191:4-5) that accelerated socio-economic development is a pre-condition for a lower fertility rate, because high population growth hampers development and leads to poverty and to poor quality of life and standard of living which in turn results in higher fertility.

5.1.5. PERIOD SPEND IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The rationale for asking this question was to compare the socio-economic status of the respondents with the period that had been spent in income generating projects.

The findings revealed that 75% of the respondents have spent three years in the income generating projects, 17% have been involved with projects for more than five years. It is true that respondents are not now in the income generating activities. Other respondents started the income generation project even before they got funds from any source. In the past and at present poor communities were and are still denied access to resources such as credit and adequate land for farming. It is for that reason that they are in static development.

5.2 PROJECT ACTIVITY

5.2.1 TYPE OF ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN

Distribution of activities according to number of projects under study.

RATING	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Sewing	4	33.3%
Poultry		
Block Making	4	33.3%
Food Gardening	4	33.3%
OTHER		
TOTAL	12	100%

TABLE 1.3

Table 1.3 illustrates that respondents are distributed equally. At 33.3% respectively is sewing, blockmaking and food gardening projects. These are the self-help projects that are common in the rural community. The researcher learned that the respondents had been engaged in these activities for over a period of three years without any alternative activities being attempted or tried and the approach that is used is stereotyped and not exploratory.

The prevalence of low level of literacy and skills among rural community people perpetuate ignorance and inability to improve their development using modern entrepreneurship.

5.2.2 PROVISION OF SKILLS TRAINING

To undertake any activity in which the community is aiming at attracting the market, appropriate and good skills must be developed.

Concerning the provision of skill training to the respondents regarding their respective projects= activities, the findings revealed that 75% of respondents did not receive any training, 25% got the training that they had organised for themselves. The respondents explained that they manage to carry-out their activities by coping or following others. The researcher learned that the respondents had no insight of the importance of producing quality goods or products for marketing purposes.

Stewart and Liebenberg (1997:22) argues that in all, every institution involved with people development has an obligation toward capacity building, towards facilitating the learning process of capacity building. The researcher also believes that the community should be provided with the know how approach before engaging them in planned change.

5.2.3 QUANTITY OF PRODUCTION PER MONTH.

The purpose of asking this question was to find out the effectiveness of the activities and measure the demand of the produce.

All the respondents were not sure and uncertain about the quantity of production per month. The reasons that were put forth differed from project to project as follows.

The blockmaking project production depends on the availability of market or orders being placed by the customers. This does not take place on monthly basis.

Gardening - their produce is not harvested at the same time for market purposes. Individual customers purchase in small scales in different times. They do not keep the records of the stock produced and sold.

Sewing had never sold any garments or linen. The only ten table cloth that had been made had never been sold. Presently nothing is being sewn. Unreliable methods of production hinder the sequence of marketing the goods for profit. The projects do not have a stable process of production and eventually sales will be affected. Mickel Wait et al (1976:78) gave suggestive indications of benefits, mentioned self - sufficiency benefits which attempt to estimate whether the project itself can become self-sustaining or whether it will necessarily continue to be dependent on outside resources. This tallies with the concern of the researcher of whether these projects will sustain through profit making or they will need additional funding.

5.2.4 AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

This question was aimed at establishing whether the respondents are well equipped with equipment and material to be able to carry out their activities. 67%, of the respondents was satisfied with the available equipment, though they mentioned that there is type of material that is not available, such as irrigation and delivery transport, 33% is not satisfied, for example sewing project has sewing machines but had no sewing material. Explanations received from the projects was that the funds are allocated in tranches and that prevent them from purchasing all the needed equipment.

The problem of rural communities of being denied access to credit from the major equipment suppliers perpetuate the oppressing situation that hinders progress and influence persisting poverty.

5.2.5. MARKETING OF PRODUCT

The researcher's interest in this question was to find out if projects have identifiable market and potential customers that will help the projects to survive.

The total number of 75% of respondents gave explanations revealing that they had no visible and stable markets to sell their product. 33%

of the respondents revealed that there is a high competition in their market, which is blockmaking. There are other groups and individuals who are also engaged in blockmaking for profit making. These individuals have adequate equipment such as concrete mixer machines and transport for delivery. Conducting a market survey before deciding on the activities to be undertaken ensures whether the product is in demand or not. It prevents the duplication of service and abundance of goods.

5.2.6 MAJOR CONSUMER GROUP

It is important to start by identifying the consumer group that is in need of the product to be produced and get a support in sales. Regarding the major consumer group supporting the projects, findings revealed that 33.3% of the respondents, the sewing project does not have consumer groups to whom it can supply it sewing. Another 33.3% of blockmaking project get a rare support from the local school and community. The last 33% of the respondents that is, the gardening project is supported by individual members of the community. The findings revealed that the consumer group analysis was not conducted. The projects have not done enough to attract customers.

5.3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

5.3.1 TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED

Each project received a substantial amount from the Department of Social Welfare to establish income generating community project. The findings revealed that projects did not receive equal amount of funding. The block making project received R100 000, food gardening project received R81 000 and the sewing project received R40 000 00. The researcher learned that the funds were paid in three tranches starting from 50% of the total allocation, down to 40% and 10%. The explanation given was that this was regarded as the best method of controlling utilization of funds. Each tranche failure to account led to forfeiting the balance of the total allocation.

The provision of a lump sum of money to people who do not have financial management skills, and with no training on financial matters was at first putting the respondents at a risk. The respondents comprises of people who had never got employed and had never held any banking account, therefore they did not have any knowledge of how to manage banking account. Projects involved respondents who are referred to as the disadvantaged community of the apartheid government.

It is for that reason that one of the aims of the Financing Policy of 1999 of the Department of Welfare is to include service organisations previously excluded from receiving financial assistance.

5.3.2 ALLOCATION USED FOR PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT

The findings show that 33.3% of the respondents spent 80% of the allocation in establishing the sewing project and very little was left for production. Another 33.3% of the respondents spent 75% of the total allocation to start the food gardening project and before the production phase took place; and the last 33.3% spent 65% in the establishment of blockmaking project, they managed to provide for the production phase.

The findings indicated that funding was not only based on the already existing and operating projects but also on those who had the intention of establishing the new projects. It is clear that a large amount was used for the establishment of the project which encompasses building structures and buying the equipment.

Community project members from rural communities sometimes fall prey to the greedy major equipment suppliers. They take advantage of their ignorance and charged them more than what is expected irrespective of whether the quotations were made or not.

5.3.3 TOTAL SALES PER MONTH

The purpose of this question was to assess the commercial viability in projects. The study indicated that 33.3% of respondents of sewing project reported that they had not made any sales, 33% from blockmaking project reported that their sales depend on the availability of customers and orders being placed and that, so far they have a balance profit of R2 235 - 00 in their baking account, the last 33.3% revealed that in the food gardening project they do not have regular and visible sales. It depends on what is harvested in that particular season. Since they do not have a sound market but are dependent on individual community members who buy in small scales they were unable to calculate monthly sales.

The researcher learned that there were no sales records kept in all the projects. In the gardening project there is no appointed person responsible for sales. Every member who happened to meet the customer collect the prices. The sewing projects did never have a targeted consumer group or customers. They had no clear direction of what to sew and where to sell. Stewart and Liebenberg (1997) emphasize that projects with difficulty to sustain its economical development will remain dependent from the sponsors. The researcher agrees with this view. The community projects under study are likely to request more funding from the Department since they are economically stagnant.

5.3.4 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The part of financial management body was explored with the purpose of assessing if this is handled with care and appropriateness since it is very delicate. 75% of the respondents revealed that two members of the committee that is, Chairman and the Secretary, are the ones who are responsible for financial management in projects. The rest of the other members have no access and are not involved in financial matters. 25% revealed that, only three members of the committee is responsible for management of funds that is, the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the project. Other members are not involved and are not participating.

The findings indicated that there is no transparency in the management of funds. During the interviews the researcher requested to peruse the minutes of meetings to see the important issues that are discussed. Only the food gardening project had the minutes though they were not consistent and there was no discussion involving finances. The sewing and blockmaking projects did not have minutes of meetings. Informal meetings were held but were not recorded.

5.3.5 SALARY PAYMENTS

The sole purpose of the poverty alleviation programme is to empower and enable the communities and groups with the economic development through the funding of projects that are aimed at generating income.

The respondents were therefore interviewed about the possibility of projects to provide monthly income. The response revealed that 75% of the respondents had never got salaries from the projects, 25% of the respondents had only gotten three salaries since the project was established. Explanations given by the respondents were that the projects had exhausted all the funds thus there is no profit generated. The food gardening project benefited its members by providing them with vegetables. The blockmaking project had managed to pay three salaries to its members. The payments were done in the form of dividends because they got them at the end of each year. Payments were ranging from R200 - R500.

The funding shows that the projects had not yet reached the desired goal of the whole Programme, which is to create job opportunities.

5.4 CAPACITY BUILDING

5.4.1 TRAINING NEEDS

The respondents were asked to identify their training needs that would help them to be efficient in their functioning.

All the respondents reported that they lack adequate and advanced skills in their activities. The training needs identified include sewing, blockmaking, agricultural financial management and general administration. The researcher learned that the respondents had never acquired any training skills that could help them to master their duties. The success of the project lies in the quality of production being produced. Lombard (1992:138) confirms that community education equips community members with the necessary skills in order to perform their work satisfactorily. The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) states that civil society must be encouraged to play an active part in the provision of learning opportunities as part of the national human resources development strategy.

5.4.2 TRAINING SKILLS

The rationale of this question was to find out whether there was any skills training provided to the respondents prior to the engagement in their projects activities. The majority of 75% of the respondents did not get any skills training activities, 25% of the respondents got a one week training courses that they had organised themselves. It was deduced from the information gathered that the respondents capabilities in running the projects were not considered as a prerequisite by the funders.

There are numerous adult educational programmes that are using different models and approaches aimed at bridging them to the present social development technology. Lombard (1992:109) gives a distinction between social and community development, that community development is regarded as community education, an approach to develop "human material", the human's capacity and insight to improve the quality of life.

Poverty Alleviation Programme is part of community development thus community education is seen as a relevant approach.

5.4.3 ORGANISATION OF TRAINING

The interest of this question was to determine if the allocation for training or any other arrangements were provided for the respondents.

All the respondents reported that the consultant that was organised by the Department to provide training failed to reach all the projects. 25% of the respondents got a three days training courses on financial management. 75% of the respondents did not get any training courses and they were still waiting for their turn.

The researcher noted that the respondents were desperately in need of training courses. Their interest is mainly on technical training in blockmaking , sewing, and agricultural skills. Stewart & Liebenberg (1997:36) say because of the proven value of involving consultants in a project, it is important to ensure that there is total clarity about their role, terms of reference and briefing, so that the maximum benefit can be derived from their services.

5.5 PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

5.5.1 PROCEDURE OF APPLYING FOR FUNDING

The respondents were interviewed about the procedure that was followed in applying for funds that is to say, if they participated in the exercise.

RATING	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Good	0	0
Fair	8	75%
Unfair	4	25%
TOTAL	12	100%

TABLE 1.4

According to table 1.4 - 75% of the respondents feel that the procedure was fair , though not all members participated in the exercise of applying for funds. They are satisfied that at the end they did get funds. 25% of the respondents feel that the procedure was unfair. There was no transparency moreover they were not informed about the total amount allocated to the project. They learned that the latter group of respondents belongs to the projects that were established after the availability of funds.

They were not in existence and were not operating before that. Community participation is very important when doing community development. This is supported by Lombard (1992:118) when he says community development is a process, a method, a programme, a movement aimed at enabling and encouraging communities to become involved with necessary support from the private and government sectors, in improving and managing their own living conditions in all areas of development.

5.5.2 SUPERVISION OF PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

Supervision in community work is a process whereby the progress of the group is monitored and guided by the supervisor. Supervision exercise therefore is expected to be carried in projects to monitor that the funds are utilized appropriately to achieve the objectives of the programme.

All the respondents reported that the Department officials seldomly visit their project to supervise them. In the explanation respondents reported that the committee members visit the Department District offices regularly to report on progress or problems encountered. The researcher learned that the Department employed the consultants who were responsible for supervising and monitoring the projects. The consultant had to compile reports and submit them to the Department's

District office. The appointed consultant is reported to have seldomly visited the projects. They were visited once or twice. Stewart and Liebenberg (1997:137) mentioned some of the reasons of using consultants and stated that consultants are advisers and helpers. They aim at helping the projects in a scientific way to analyse problems, to investigate possible solutions and to recommend actions to ensure sound sustainable implementations.

5.5.3 FUNDING OF COMMUNITY PROJECT AS THE BEST METHOD TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY

The respondents gave their different opinions regarding the funding of projects as the government approach to alleviate poverty. The total number of 58% of the respondents disagree and that they view the approach as failing to help the poor get a stable income. They gave various reasons, the main concern being that they are not getting salaries from projects. The projects are not economically viable and are unsustainable. Respondents suggested that these poverty alleviation funds should be converted into grants that will be paid on monthly basis.

- Another suggestion was that the government should bring companies where people shall be formally employed.

42% of the respondents said the approach is good except that it needs improvement and appropriateness in terms of production and marketing. These respondents, have a courage to work on self-help activities. Their suggestions were: "If we can get adequate skills, enough equipment and material we can make profit and get salaries". Most of the respondents who appreciated the approach are not the bread winners and their husbands are employed.

The Department of Welfare recognised and prioritised the need of funding community projects. This led to the phasing out of maintenance grants as the statistics proved that it created dependency to the recipients. The purpose of funding community project was to help the community to develop themselves economically and become self-sufficient and self-reliant.

5.5.4 HINDRANCES THAT PREVENTED PROJECTS FROM BEING SUSTAINED

Respondents were given the chance of self-evaluation-through looking at the whole process and thereafter identify the factors that hindered the project from sustaining itself. All the respondents gave various reasons based on individual views as regards specific projects. Some of the reasons were presented as follows.

- We do not have irrigation schemes and tractors for our gardens. Our area has drought so it is difficult to provide the best and adequate vegetables to make profit.
- We lack advanced sewing skills and we are not provided with enough material to be able to continue with our sewing.
- There is no reliable transport to deliver blocks to the customers. We therefore loose customers.
- Lack of salary payments demotivate us from working. How can you work with an empty stomach. There is no control of the attendance of members, they come and go.

Other problems reported were theft and the method of payment which involved paying in tranches gave us a lot of problems in the running of the projects

The researcher witnessed some problems. The blocks' project had a number of blocks undelivered due to the lack of delivery transport.

The sewing project was found not operating because they did not have sewing material.

5.5.5 POSSIBILITY OF THE PROGRAMME IN CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The main objective of the poverty alleviation programme is to improve the socio-economic status of poverty stricken families through job creation in community projects. The respondents were interviewed on this aspect to find out if the projects had achieved the objective. All the respondents regretted that the programme had not managed to create job opportunities because none of the members get stable monthly income. They further mentioned that all the hinderences of the projects can be improved. They hope that once this has been done the programme will provide jobs. The efforts, efficiency, and adequacy of performance were reviewed in the whole process, and all these aspects were not fulfilled appropriately.

The researcher learned that none of the projects had absorbed or employed new members. They contained members who started the projects some of whom had left for formal employment.

CONCLUSION

In this chapter the researcher has presented, analysed and interpreted data collected from the members of community project. Lower Umfolozi District. The next chapter will be the summary and recommendations of the whole study.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

In this concluding chapter a summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study are outlined.

The main aim of the study was to find out the impact of poverty alleviation programme with special reference to the Lower Umfolozi District.

6.2 RESTATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

- To establish whether community projects are the best methods to be used for Socio-economic upliftment and poverty alleviation.
- To find out if the main objectives of the Department of Social Welfare about the programme are achieved, and
- To determine what obstacles and hindrances if any contributed to the failure of the programme.

6.3 COMMUNITY PROJECTS AS THE BEST METHOD FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Findings confirmed that community projects have failed poverty stricken communities to improve their socio-economic standards (58%)

Though this approach was adopted by the Department of Social Welfare in 1997, it has however not yet achieved its purpose. Poverty alleviation programme came as a substitute of maintenance grants. The grant was phased out in the period of three years whilst the Department of Social Welfare was introducing the new approach of funding community projects.

It has been noted that what made actually the programme to be disabled, is its implementation in the community. There are serious inefficiencies that were mentioned and discovered in the projects.

There is poor networking among the consultant in the district office and other role players such as other Government and Non government institutions also working on Social / Community development. It is believed that if the community projects were well organised and well prepared in terms of skills development, and market analysis prior to the disbursement of funds, the community projects would have started with sustainable note.

Women in Rural areas are used to self - help activities. It is only that they

need skills training to advance their knowledge. Eventually they will produce competent products for marketing purposes.

The government is shifting its focus from referring to communities as beneficiaries but to the actors and participants in their development in that development is a process by which the members of a society increase their resources to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations.

It was however observed that the respondents mind set is still locked in the old paradigms. They recommend the previous method of alleviating poverty which is the provision of maintenance grant and relief of distress and preference of wages employment. There is a lack of conceptualization of social development with emphasis on economic development.

6.4 ACHIEVEMENT OF MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The vision of the Department of Social Welfare is to provide a welfare system which facilitates the development of human capacity and self-reliance within a caring and enabling socio-economic environment (white paper for social welfare 1997)

One of the objectives of the poverty alleviation programme is to empower the communities through the funding of community projects to generate income

and become self - sufficient and self - reliant.

It therefore calls for self - reliant participatory development. Burkey (1993 : 205) defines self - reliant participatory development as an educational and empowering process in which people in partnership with each other and with those able to assist them, identify problems and needs, mobilize resources, and assume responsibility themselves to plan, manage, control and assess the individual and collective actions that they themselves decide upon.

The findings show that there are no job opportunities created and the project sustainance is poor, some are at the stage of dysfunctioning. These are the measuring tools used to measure the effectiveness of the programme of poverty alleviation.

Self-help projects such as gardening, sewing and block making had been in existence for some decades, even before the transformation of welfare services took place. The Department of Agriculture had also been engaged in empowering communities with project activities. Previous studies have shown that these activities had not reached the optimum level of operation and had done very little to improve the economic standards of the poor.

The size of food gardening project for example does not resemble those that are mainly established for marketing purposes. It is nearly equal to those that people have and used to supplement their domestic food although one of the main facilities of food gardening project which is fencing was done properly.

It is not enough to produce fresh and good vegetables that can attract the potential customers.

Need assessment should be conducted in community intervention. It helps to plan exactly how to support the community on its development. This is in line with what is viewed by Tropman et al (1995:11) that planners and programme administrators must decide what information will generate the most comprehensive identification and assessment of needs in a specific geographic service area, and what proportion of programme resources should reasonably be allocated for this effect.

The fact that there is still an increase in the number of social grant recipients, especially the child support grants shows that the programme has achieved very little if not nothing to help the communities to become self-sufficient.

6.5 OBSTACLES AND HINDRANCES CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The findings revealed that there are obstacles and hindrances that contributed to the failure of poverty alleviation programme to reach its goal (100%)

Funding of community projects is a new exercise and the poverty alleviation programme component is new in the Department of Social Welfare. The unit is still in the process of adjusting itself. However it is the identified obstacles and hindrances that should be considered in order to improve the implementation of the programme.

The problems are identifiable both from the Department and from the projects / respondents themselves. The lack of appropriate need analysis exercised from the Department officials together with the community to identify the relevant activities through which the income could be generated was not conducted adequately.

The community participation in planning for proposed change was not adequate. The respondents had no idea as regards to the criterias were used by the department to elect projects for funding. The whole procedure to be followed in applying for funding was not known. The policy that is used regulating the programme was shared and discussed.

I am in agreement with Tropman et al (1995 : 12) that the planning process leads to the selection of and priority setting among problems and target population to be addressed; the selection and operationalization of specific community program activity.

If proper need or problem analysis and planning is not done, it is difficult to ascertain that the implementation of the programme will succeed.

The study indicated that the supervision of community projects was not regular (100%) Community developer plays an important role of being an enabler, facilitator, encourager or motivator, co-ordinator, guide and educator. These are expected roles that these community projects should have been

helped with during the supervision or monitoring phase.

The lack of co-ordination of services between the consultant and the departments officials during their intervention in the projects brought about confusion and frustration to the respondents. There was role confusion.

On the side of the respondents many of the problems and obstacles experienced, were the results of ignorance and poor participation in planning and decision making.

The respondents have the characteristics of poor self - esteem, illiteracy, as well as being poor and unemployed. These factors make them to become helpless, hopeless and powerless. They do not know what their rights or privileges are. It is for these reasons that when they experience problems in the projects they soon loose direction because they lack problem solving - skills and assertiveness.

Insufficient equipment and material in all the community projects hindered the function of projects. The respondents revealed that there were lots of limitations in terms of what they should purchase and not purchase.

Some of the items that the projects prioritized to purchase were disapproved by the consultant. Block making business hardly survive if there is no transport to deliver the purchased blocks. All the clients need the delivery service.

It is the same with the food gardening projects. Unavailability of irrigation scheme hindered the project from producing fresh vegetables. Their plants suffer drought because they are not watered regularly. The respondents had to walk a distance of 400 metres to fetch water.

The respondents of the sewing project do not have any sewing skills. They have not received any training during the life of the project just before it totally collapsed. The sewing equipment is lying unutilized.

6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings during the study, the researcher makes the following recommendations.

- The policy frame - work regulating the implementation of poverty alleviation programme should be reviewed and readdress the targeted group in this regard. The planning used in the introduction and implementation of the programme was a top down approach. This type of approach was commonly used during the apartheid government. It prevents the participation of the community.
- According to the requirements to qualify for funding the projects had to submit the following documents:

- Business Plan
- Constitution
- Bank Details
- List of Committee members and members
- The valid quotations

The communities should be empowered in terms of training towards the acquisition of the said documents. It is true that there are people who had never had any banking accounts, and they do not know how to compile the constitution document as well as the Business Plan.

Workshops should be organised whereby the communities will be trained on the preparation of the above documents. The community need to be empowered with the knowledge and enabled to do things on its own. An enabling environment should be developed so that the communities will be able to identify their real needs and priorities and embark into action.

Networking and co-ordination of service delivery will help to promote effective and efficient service in the community. It will also prevent the duplication of services by the government department and non governmental sectors.

Intersectoral or interdepartmental forums consisting of all service providers engaged in poverty alleviation should be established.

Through these forums new approaches and models towards social development will be learned and share information.

NEED ASSESSMENT

To every community intervention need assessment is the vital exercise to be conducted. A comprehensive convergent analysis of human service needs requires utilization of human resources that exists in the community.

There are several important methods that can be employed to obtain information about community needs and problems. Various techniques need assessment such as public meetings, community forums and community survey can be used. Need assessment can be done using a common method of compiling community profile.

Intervention to the community where all the records and information has been gathered and analysed will be easy because the information will be used in the planning phase.

In the case of involving the community in the income generating activities, the gathered data will help to identify the possible activities to be carried out and the marketing as well as prediction of sustainability.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building entails community education. The time to consider new models, methods and approaches in community education has arrived.

The social community education model involves a new approach which will be of advantage to the community. This model helps the community worker to understand that the efficiency of the social functioning of a given community and its members ability to cope with the demands of life, are primarily determined by the individual and collective knowledge, insight, skills and attitudes established in them by means of education.

Another model that should be utilized when capacitating the community is Participatory Learning and Action (PLA). This approach, instead of looking at people as an abstract, tries to place them in their relevant social and historical contexts. Stewart and Liebenberg (1997:96) say that the Participatory Learning and Action upholds the view that human intelligence is active, selective and creative, and is continuously creating its own social reality.

The community should be seen as the actors and participants in all the stages involving their social development. They should not be regarded as beneficiaries who need motivation and controlling. They need empowerment and support in the form of participatory development.

SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

Supervision and monitoring of a programme are on going exercises, starting from the planning phase to the implementation phase.

The community projects supervisor should make it a point that he/she schedules regular monitoring visits to the project. This will help to detect problems at an earlier stage and prevent escalation of problems and conflict.

Monitoring and supervision should be used as a teaching process. Community project members need to be guided and supported at all the levels of action.

Supervision should not be used as investigations or inspection. Projects should be given the opportunity to give out their views or ideas in connection with perceived methods of bringing about progress in their activities.

Any problems that have been detected early should be attended to before going to the next phase of the project. Monitoring and supervision reports should be kept for future use in the evaluation level. This enables the project and the Department itself to measure the possibility of success and sustainability.

6.7 ADMINISTRATION IN PROJECT

Accuracy in administration ensures the smooth and efficient running of the project and this involves keeping of records and updating of all the registers.

The registers and any available documentation of the projects that were looked at showed that there was poor administration.

The committee members need training regarding their portfolios. The projects should have their constitution that will help in guiding and controlling the function and the behaviour of members.

Register and documents that should be kept in projects are

- Attendance Register
- Members Register containing the details of members
- Constitution
- List of Committee members containing full details of members
- Monthly Bank statements
- Inventory Register
- Cash Book
- Analysis Book
- Stock Book

Keeping of these registers and documents will minimise or prevent the mismanagement of funds and equipment.

The community should be capacitated on how to keep and manage these registers.

These registers need to be supervised or monitored regularly by the project co-ordinators.

CONCLUSION

This is the last chapter of the study which give us a summative evaluation of the poverty alleviation programme.

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INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY DOCUMENT (1997)

SOWETAN NEWSPAPER, 31 MARCH 2000, MAY 2001

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

IMPACT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO LOWER UMFOLOZI DISTRICT.

1. PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Sex

Female	
Male	

1.2 Highest standard of education

Gr. 1 - Gr. 7	
Gr. 7 - Gr. 12	
Non	

1.3 Number of dependants in your household

1 - 5	
5 - 10	
10 - above	

1.4 How long have you been involved in community projects

1 - 3	
3 - 5	
5 - above	

1.5 What is your household source of income

200 - 500	
550 - 1000	
1000 - above	
Other	

Explain -----

2. **PROJECT ACTIVITY**

2.1 What type of activity are you involved with in your Project

Sewing	
Poultry	
Gardening	
Blockmaking	
Other	

2.2 Did you receive any training for your project activity

Yes	
No	

Explain -----

2.3 What is your Quantity of Production per month

Sewing	
Poultry	
Gardening	
Blockmaking	
Other	

Explain -----

2.4 Do you think you have enough equipment to use in the Project

No	
Yes	

Explain -----

2.5 How do you market your product

Explain -----

2.6 Who is your major consumer group

Community	
Retailers	
Schools	
Other	

Explain -----

3. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

3.1 What is the total funding your project received from the Department of Social Welfare

10. 000 - 50000	
50 000 - 100 000	
100 000 - Above	

Explain -----

3.2 How much funds did your project use to establish the project

Explain -----

3.3 How much sales do you manage per month

Explain -----

3.4 Who is responsible for the project's financial records

Committee	
Treasurer	
Private Auditor	

Explain -----

3.5 What is your monthly salary that you receive from the project

R100 - R200	
R200 - R500	

R500 - Above	
Other	

Explain -----

4. **CAPACITY BUILDING**

4.1 What do you think are your training needs

Explain -----

4.2 What are the training skills that you have and relevant to your project

Explain -----

4.3 Who is responsible for organising and payments of Trainings and Workshops

The Founder	
Project itself	
Other	

Explain -----

5. **PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

5.1 How do you view the procedure followed when applying for funding of community project

Good	
Fair	
Unfair	

Explain -----

5.2 How often do the Department's Official supervise/monitor the project

Regular	
Seldom	
No at all	

Explain -----

5.3 Do you think funding of community project is the best method to alleviate poverty

Yes	
No	

Explain -----

5.4 Are there any hindrances that prevent the project from sustaining

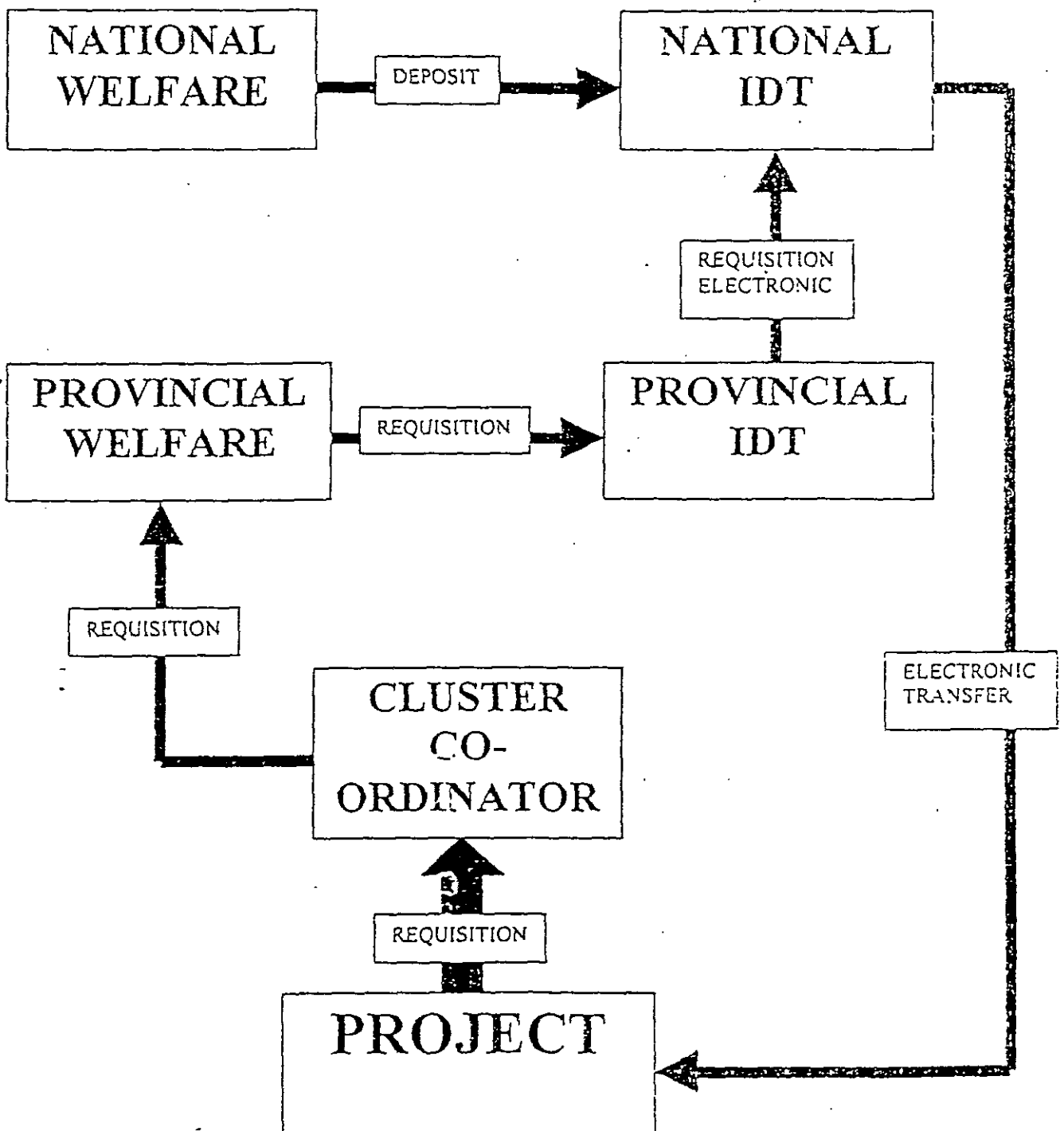
Yes	
No	

Explain -----

5.5 What is the possibility of the programme in creating job opportunities in the community

Explain -----

FLOW OF FUNDS



POVERTY RELIEF DISBURSEMENTS FOR LOWER UMFOLOZI DISTRICT

	Ref. No.	Project Name	Location	Amount	40 %	50 %	10 %
1.	951	Qalukuvela women's Project	Nhlabisini	R 90 000		45 000	9 000
2.	1077	Zama-Zama women's Project	Dondotha	R 50 000		25 000	5 000
3.	2926	KwaMthethwa Garden Project	Bhubhubhu	R100 000		50 000	10 000
4.	1529	Bhubhubhu Poultry Project	Bhubhubhu	R 20 000		10 000	2 000
5.	1519	Bhubhubhu Poultry Project	Bhubhubhu	R65 000		32 500	6 500
6.	1527	Zibambeleni Block Making	Magwetshana	R 61 000		30 500	6 100
7.	1087	Zenzeleni Poultry	Mandlazini	R 87 000		43 500	8 700
8.	1238	Sicelinhlanhla Block making	Mambuka	R 75 000		37 500	7 500
9.	1282	Siphinhlanhla Project	Mandlazini	R 81 418		40 709	8 141.80
10.	1427	Zizameloni Comm. Dev. Project	Magwetshana	R 25 000		12 500	2 500
11.	1221	Mancence Garden project	Bhucanana	R68 700		34 350	6 870
12.	1256	Sabokwe Block making	Bhucanana	R75 000		37 500	7 500
13.	1567	Sibonginhlanhla wom. Club	Magwetshana	R88 000		44 000	8 800
14.	1534	Zenzele Poultry	Mambuka	R17 700		8 850	1 770
15.	1176	Thulasizwe Poultry Project	Macekana	R40 000		20 000	4 000
16.	1427	Zizamele Poultry Project	KwaMthethwa	R25 000		12 500	2 500
17.	1195	Ikhwezi sewing Project	Matshana	R 40 000		20 000	4 000
18.	1164	Kusile Garden Dev. Project	Matshana	R 116 500		58 250	11 650
19.	1520	Vukani Garden Project	KwaMthethwa	R60 000		30 000	6 000
20.	1094	Bhubhubhu Poultry	Bhubhubhu	R 50 000		25 000	5 000
21.	1411	Ntambanana Comm. Project	Ntambanana	R70 000		35 000	7 000
		TOTAL		R1 304 618	522 127.20		

KWAZULU-NATAL

